2006

REMARKS

The rejections of:

Claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over WO/39253, as evidenced by

U.S. 6,296,943 (Watanabe et al), and

Claims 10-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the

alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, EP 0909784 (Nissan),

are respectfully traversed.

Above-amended Claim 17, which is the sole independent claim, is coextensive with

Claim 1 of US 6,626,987, which issued from the parent of the present application, regarding

particles (c). Watanabe et al and Nissan were cited in the parent application. Neither

Watanabe et al nor Nissan disclose or suggest presently-recited particles (c). Accordingly, it

is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in

immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman/F. Oblon

Harris A. Pitlick

Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

NFO:HAP\la

6